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The nations shall learn war no more.

THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY

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GREAT BRITAIN AND VENEZUELA.

The London *Herald of Peace* says in reference to the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela that "England is willing to submit to arbitration that portion concerning which there is some doubt, but declines to submit to any other party a reconsideration of her long acknowledged and ancient frontier line, concerning which there was no doubt until gold was discovered in the section of British territory now claimed by Venezuela." The *Herald* seems to state this position of Great Britain as if approving it. But according to Venezuela this "ancient frontier line" has never been acknowledged by anybody but Great Britain. She claims to have been protesting against British aggression for more than fifty years and that a large part of what Great Britain now claims as her "long acknowledged" right has been from time to time acquired by the most barefaced aggression. Portions of the records of the Venezuela state department correspondence which have been made public seem to indicate that Venezuela is right in this statement. If this is not a case for arbitration, we should not know where to find one. Both countries lay claim to a certain territory, and each pretends to support its claim by documentary and other evidence. There are only three ways out of such a dispute, to submit the case to disinterested parties, to go to war about it or for one party simply to back down and let the other have its way, right or wrong. The case seems to us to be exactly like that of the Behring Sea dispute. The United States claimed to have exclusive control of the whole of Behring Sea, and that this had been the case from the time that Alaska passed from the possession of Russia into her own. This claim the state department supported by voluminous documentary evidence. Great Britain, on the contrary, held that the Behring Sea was an open sea and that she had a

right in it. After two years of vigorous diplomatic correspondence the case was referred to an arbitral tribunal, and the contention of the United States, though supported by the ablest legal counsel in the country, was set aside. We are inclined to the opinion, after having read carefully and impartially what has been said on both sides, that the claim of Great Britain against Venezuela is quite as weak as that of the United States was in the case of the Behring Sea difficulty. But be this as it may, the dispute is unquestionably just of that kind which ought to be submitted to the impartial examination of a competent disinterested tribunal. Neither the British Foreign Office nor the Venezuelan State Department alone is capable of deciding it, much less the press of either of those countries or of any other country, the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and the *Herald of Peace* certainly included. The certainty of Great Britain that she is in the rightful possession of the disputed territory ought to make her ready to submit the case cheerfully to arbitration, and the fact that she has steadily declined to do this, though repeatedly asked and urged for many years to do so, not only by Venezuela but by our own government, is causing impartial people in all other countries to think that she really does not believe in her own pretensions. The *Herald of Peace* ought to join with the friends of peace and justice everywhere in trying to get the case as speedily as possible referred to an impartial tribunal. That is what will have to be done ultimately, and the sooner it is done the better.

THE POWER OF A TREATY.

Those of our readers who do not have access to the government publications will be glad to read in full the Rush-Bagot treaty of April, 1817, about which there has been considerable talk in the papers recently. We give in full the two final letters of the diplomatic correspondence by which the treaty was made, containing its provisions:

Mr. Bagot to Mr. Rush.

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1817.

The undersigned, His Britannick Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has the honor to acquaint Mr. Rush that having laid before His Majesty's Government the correspondence which passed last year between the Secretary of the Department of State and the undersigned upon the subject of a proposal to reduce the Naval Force of the respective countries upon the American Lakes, he has received the commands of His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, to acquaint the Government of the United States that His Royal Highness is willing to accede to the proposition made to the undersigned by the Secretary of the Department of State in his note of the second of August last.

His Royal Highness, acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, agrees that the Naval Force to be maintained upon the American Lakes by His Majesty and the Government of the United States shall henceforth